

**Directorate of Intelligence**  
Office of African and Latin American Analysis

10 September 1982

NOTE FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

Attached for your use at lunch today are the talking points you requested on Soviet military shipments to Cuba and the status of pilot training for the Nicaraguans. I hope these will do the job for you.



Director

Attachment:  
As stated

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10 September 1982

Talking Points for DCI

SUBJECT: Level of Soviet Arms Deliveries to Cuba

Over the past 12 to 18 months, Cuba has received a significant quantity of new weapons from the USSR for its army, navy and air force, as well as arms and ammunition for its new territorial militia.

- The air force received more than 50 late-model MIG-21s, 24 MIG-23s, four AN-24 transports, and 12 MI-24 helicopter gunships.
- The navy acquired a Koni-class frigate, six OSA-II missile patrol boats, two hydrofoil patrol craft, three small minesweepers, and a degaussing ship.
- A Polnocny-class landing ship with a maximum capacity of 180 troops, is being towed from the USSR and could arrive in Cuba by next week.
- The ground forces received a battalion of SA-6 mobile surface-to-air missiles, fighting vehicles, nearly 200 anti-tank guns and air defense artillery pieces, and its first self-propelled artillery.

These deliveries will serve to modernize and improve the capabilities of Cuba's regular armed forces and are almost certainly the result of Castro's pleas to the Soviets for more defensive arms to counter the threat of US military action. These arms will, however, give his armed forces greater stature in the region, and provide Cuba with a limited capability to intervene on the behalf of Leftist governments or liberation movements.

Soviet Shipments to Cuba

1962 - 250,000 m.tons  
1981 - 63,700 m.tons (biggest since 1962)  
1982 - appears comparable to deliveries in 1981

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